

SUSTAIN-A-BULLETIN

FITZGERALD BIOSPHERE GROUP

Post-seeding field walk

To punctuate the end of 2023 seeding, FBG hosted an informal field walk on June 21, in Jacup, with a focus on increasing resilience in the face of seasonal variations and climate challenges.

The afternoon's first stop took us to a dam catchment lined with second-hand CBH tarp on Mark Lester's property; a demonstration site for the WaterSmart Dams project, and a DWER strategic community water supply site. Discussion onsite centred around the process of laying the tarps and grading the catchment, the resources involved, as well as alternative methods of increasing run-off, and how this particular approach could be improved or adapted to suit a broad range of needs. Further details on this demonstration site can be found on the fact sheet in this edition, and regular updates are given on our social media and the Grower Group Alliance website.



Oat and medic cover crop



Growers viewing dam catchment lined with CBH tarp

After wrapping up at the dam, we headed north to visit Brad Bailey's Cavalier Medic pasture seeded into an oat crop. This was an excellent demonstration of fixing nitrogen and controlling weeds (particularly ryegrass) without relying on synthetic inputs.

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It was also a great way to discuss different means of trialing new things, namely those that are aiming for long-term groundcover and improved soil health, while still making a steady profit (one purpose of the oat cover crop). Cavalier Medic is tolerant of both low rainfall and moderate-high salinity, making it a viable option for increasing groundcover and productivity on marginal as well as productive lands. The evening closed with a sundowner, allowing those in attendance to continue to share their own thoughts and ideas on the topics brought to light during the day, while tucking into a sausage sizzle around the fire.



This event is supported by funding through South Coast Natural Resource Management and the Australian Federal Government's National Landcare Program.

This event is also supported by joint funding through the Australian Federal Government's Future Drought Fund, and the Department of Primary Resources and Regional Development

The Jacup community dam catchment is a designated Strategic Community Water Supply (SCWS) site; a Department of Water and Environmental Regulation investment.





PESTSMART

Have you got wild dogs?

Detecting the presence of wild dogs and their impacts:

It is common for wild dogs to be present in an area but go unnoticed or unrecognised. No matter what colour a free-roaming dog is, if it is not your dog it should be considered a wild dog. There are several indicators that suggest that wild dogs might be present in an area. Read through the indicators listed in the table, and follow the exercise outlined on the following page.



Wild dog tracks in sand dunes. Image: Ben Allen

Category	Potential indicator of wild dog presence	Score
1	free-roaming dogs seen or heard	10
1	wild dog footprints found in places where working dogs have not been used (eg around water points, road junctions, along animal pads, under holes in fences, newly graded tracks)	10
1	wild dog scats/faeces and scratch marks found in similar places (scats should contain hair, bones, scales, feathers, or insects)	10
1	livestock kills and damage, including bite marks or torn ears	10
2	unexplained livestock losses or low marking/branding/mustering percentages	8
2	unusually high percentages of cows not producing milk	8
2	the absence of young kangaroos and feral goats	7
2	kangaroos caught in fences when there has been no one present to disturb the mobs	7
3	sheep coming into water at a gallop and leaving in the same way (lead animal taking last animal back out before it has drunk)	5
3	changes in livestock or goat behaviour (eg stock no longer camping on the dam or grazing where they always have in the past)	5
3	sheep that won't work into the wind or visit good feed down one end of the paddock	5
4	kangaroos/livestock drowned in full dams	4
4	feral goat numbers lower than expected	4
4	crows following your working dogs	3
4	increased localised crow numbers	2
4	birds of prey in consistently rough, barren areas where you would not otherwise expect to find much food	2



Are wild dogs present in my area?

Using the indicators described on the previous page, complete the following exercise:

1. Circle each of the indicators you have observed for your area.
2. Add up your scores separately for each category.
3. Locate your chances of wild dogs being present in the following table.

A score of 10 or more in Category 1	You definitely have wild dogs
A score of 15 or more in Category 2	You probably have wild dogs
A score of 10 or more in Category 3	You might have wild dogs
A score of 10 or more in Category 4	You might have wild dogs
One score/indicator each from Category 2, 3, and 4	You probably have wild dogs

Ask your neighbours to complete the exercise as well. If you think you have wild dogs, talk to your local pest animal authority.

Distinguishing between wild dog, fox, cat and quoll tracks:

The presence of wild dogs is often discovered by seeing their tracks in the soil, but sometimes the tracks of other species look similar to those of wild dogs (see Figure 1). Wind, rain, organic matter in the soil and other factors can make it difficult to accurately identify some tracks or determine how fresh they are.

The average size of wild dog footprints also changes throughout the year as pups become active and begin wandering around. For example, in late spring and early



Figure 1: The relative size and shape of wild dog, fox,

summer, some wild dog footprints (of pups) can be as small as those of foxes and it can be hard to tell them apart. By autumn and winter, all wild dog prints are usually much larger than foxes' prints (Figure 1).

The front foot length of adult wild dogs (excluding nails) is usually greater than 6 cm. When wild dogs, foxes and cats walk, their front foot hits the ground first and their back foot print usually lands nearby (see Figure 2).

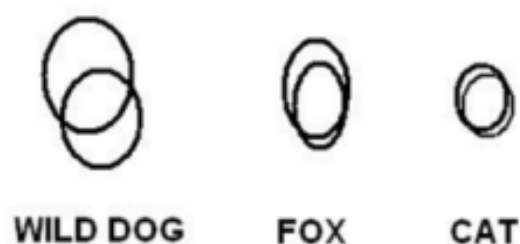


Figure 2: Usual foot print placement for wild dogs, foxes and cats

In good track-reading conditions in sand, silt, or mud:

- dog prints are usually larger and rounder, foxes' prints are smaller and more elongated, and cats' prints are small and very round
- dog toe nails usually point out straight, fox nails point inwards, and cats have no toe nail marks
- the back foot usually partly overlaps the front foot for dogs, mostly overlaps for foxes, and almost completely overlaps for cats
- the front foot of quolls shows all five toes (wild dogs, foxes and cats only show four).

Further information:

For more information to help identify tracks and other signs of wild dogs and other animals see the book [Tracks, Scats and Other Traces: A Field Guide to Australian Mammals](#) (2004), by Barbara Triggs.

If you suspect that you have wild dogs in your area, talk to your neighbours and your local pest animal control authority.

Invasive Animals Ltd has taken care to validate the accuracy of the information at the date of publication [April 2016]. This information has been prepared with care but it is provided "as is", without warranty of any kind, to the extent permitted by law.



From the EO's Desk

Well it feels like it's been a grey old winter but certainly not quite the dire forecast of May, at least along the South Coast. That being said, I hope our members receive some top up falls and a soft finish to the season.

In late July, I attended the Grower Group Alliance Forum, an industry event that is held every 2 years. This year the focus was on the challenges involved in embracing change and a concept known as "the beautiful question" (*Beautiful question: an ambitious yet actionable questions that can begin to shift the way we perceive or think about something – and that might serve as a catalyst to bring about change – Berger, 2016*).

Some of the key take home messages for me were:

- Resilience thinking with Dr Hanabeth Luke – the investigation of how the interacting systems of people and nature (and agriculture's place in that) can be managed
- Mindset makeover with Zoe Arden in managing change with impact
- What do farmers need vs what do they want in terms of ag R,D,E&A
- Natural capital accounting with Richard Brake Consulting – emerging opportunities for the sector and how farm businesses can explore this
- Collaboration is the key to pursuing producer-led challenge solutions. FBG's involvement in the WaterSmart Dams project is part of this approach
- WA Agricultural Research Collaboration announced. Inaugural Director is Dr Kelly Pearce, a highly regarded industry stalwart, researcher and farmer. She was most recently EO at Facey Group

Back at FBG, the team has been busy planning our upcoming events, starting with our Ladies' Day on Wednesday 23rd August at the Gairdner Hall. We are really excited about the lineup and think there is an interesting mix of emerging issues, always topical business concerns and some hands-on and networking opportunities as well.

Just a couple of weeks after that, we are back down to Gairdner on Tuesday 12th September for our Spring Field Day where we will be dropping in a couple of project sites, as well as looking at some seasonal issues, including looking at a controlled traffic system after some wet seasons, as well as nutrient management options.

I'd also like to flag our AGM which will this year be held on the 11th of October.

We will be sourcing an interesting or perhaps controversial speaker to get you there! We'd also love to hear from our members (as well as non members) about what you want from a grower group in your patch – come along and have your say and help to get relevant industry funding in your patch and to the benefit of your business.

Saltland sites successfully seeded!



9 months after commencing native seed collection alongside Nowanup Rangers and Nathan McQuoid, our saltland revegetation sites for 2023 are finally taking shape! This represents an extremely positive step in restoring biodiversity to unproductive agricultural areas within the Jerramungup Shire that have become salinised since being cleared.

Seeds were collected, sorted, and sieved by FBG & Nowanup Rangers from November to March, prior to being sown in July/August. On the day of seeding, seeds were separated into fine and coarse mixes, bulked out with vermiculate, then treated with homemade smokewater, fungicide, and ethephon for optimal growth by Greening Australia's Glen Steven. These mixes included the following species:

Acacia cyclops	Eucalyptus macrandra
A. acuminata	Eucalyptus sp. (mallee mix)
A. redolens	Melaleuca eliptica
A. assimilis	M. cuticularis
A. petagiata	M. hamulosa
Allocasurina huegeliana	M. brevifolia
Casurina obesa	M. acuminata
Callothamnus quadrifidus	

Kicking off on July 31, the Needilup site involved a lot of weaving among the existing Yates, one broken hose, and 4ha worth of beautiful seeding lines comprised of local provenance species collected from right next to the site. The Gairdner site presented completely different challenges, with a mixture of soil, weed, and salt types to navigate. Despite this, the locally collected, salt tolerant native trees and shrubs are now ready to spring up across about 9ha of successfully seeded land, thanks to some well-timed rain on the day of completion! Where the direct seeding wasn't suitable or doesn't take, seedlings will be hand planted in the coming weeks.

Next time you're driving through Gairdner, see if you can spot

some of the natives germinating along the creekline just past the school, on the western side of the road!

Thanks very much to Glen for executing the seeding, Nowanup for all the seed collection work, and to our wonderful landholders for all the time spent planning, spraying, ploughing, marking out fence lines, and most of all, being so willing to restore some of your land to a biodiverse ecosystem!

Feeling inspired to start your own saltland revegetation project? Give us a call to see if we can help!

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM program.



natural resource
management program



Sowing the seeds of drought resilient fodders

Our demonstration site for CSIRO/DPIRD led project 'drought resilient landscapes with profitable native shrub and legume systems across southern Australia' is officially in the ground!

This aim of this project, which involves multiple groups across WA and NSW, is to establish commercial-scale plantations of novel forage systems that can mitigate the impact of drought while facilitating broader adoption and assessing economic and environmental benefits.

A ~9ha site comprised of mixed annual legumes and perennials (many salt tolerant) has been established on Craig and Naomi's property in Gairdner. This area was cropped and was yielding well prior to being established as a demonstration site. Rising water tables and visible salinity throughout the site, however, indicated that a proactive treatment of deep-rooted perennial species and novel legumes may be suitable for improving its long-term viability and enabling it to function as a drought-tolerant fodder unit. The site was originally set for a treatment of multiple rows of individual annual legume species, in addition to an area of mixed perennials, both to be sown with a small cone seeder in mid-June. Site conditions made this impossible, hence the final decision to establish a mixture of the annual legumes and perennials across the whole site. With the perennials and legumes now in the ground, rows of Anameka saltbush will be planted across the site in the coming weeks.

The site was rolled and sprayed by Naomi and Craig in mid-June. Spraying rates were as follows: 1.5L/ha glyphosate 450, 70ml/ha oxyfluron, 1% activator surfactant. The site was

sprayed again on July 23, at a rate of 2L/ha glyphosate 450, 20ml/ha hammer 400, 1% activator surfactant, prior to seeding on the 24th. The final seed mix included:

TWG (8.8 kg/ha)	Subclover (1.6kg/ha)	Scimitar (1.6kg/ha)
Lucerne/Chicory (2.8/kg /ha)	Vetch (1.6kg/ha)	Dalkeith (1.6kg/ha)
Messina (5.5kg/ha)	Paradana (1.6kg/ha)	Tyrell (1.6kg/ha)
Kikuyu (330g/ha)	Prima (1.6kg/ha)	50kg/ha of Fert at seeding July 2023 (Super 3:1)
Balansa clover (1.6kg/ha)	Cavalier (1.6kg/ha)	+ 80kg/ ha Fert in 2022 (Super 3:1)
Gland Clover (1.6kg/ha)	RM4 (1.6kg/ha)	
Medic (1.6kg/ha)		

Given some good seasonal conditions, hopefully this site flourishes into a highly productive, drought-tolerant asset! Come along to our Spring Field Day on September 12 to see it for yourself, and follow our socials and website for project updates.

This project is supported by CSIRO, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development



Craig Hall seeding the annual legume and perennial mix - photos courtesy of Ron Master (DPIRD)

2023 Bremer Clean Up Day

Almost 50 people braved a chilly wind this year to pick up rubbish on our annual Clean Up Bremer Bay Day. Not only did we have a strong contingent in town on the morning of Sunday 18th June, we also had several people who collected rubbish on roads near their farms. A big thank you to you all.

For the second year in a row now the general consensus is the town is pretty clean. If we could attribute this to fewer people littering, that would be an extremely welcome development, but we also know a number of locals routinely pick up rubbish around town, on beaches and along Bremer Road as do Jerramungup Shire employees, especially Penny Willcocks.

Next year we will scout out areas we don't usually target and hope to be pleasantly surprised by the lack of rubbish there too!

As usual, we met at the Paperbarks around 11.30 for a BBQ, traded stories about rubbishy finds ranging from the eye-raising to the frankly disgusting; and drew the winners of our seven gift vouchers.

The Bremer Primary School P&C ladies delivered the recyclables to the Men's Shed team for sorting and the proceeds from the Containers for Change Program will be split between the two groups.

As always, the Clean-Up Day was well supported by local businesses and we can't thank you enough for your ongoing support. The food was donated by the Bremer Bay Resort, the BP Roadhouse and the Bremer Bay General Store. The vouchers were donated by Bremer Bay Hardware, Reef Gallery and Go-in Hard Concrete (who donate four gift vouchers from local businesses).

Thanks to the CRC Manager Troy Treeby for his help on and leading up to the day, the Shire's Manager of Development Noel Myers for driving the truck and helping out on the day, and Loren Rowe from the P&C for helping at the registration 'desk' and sorting the delivery of the recyclables.

The combined efforts of all the people who contribute to this Clean Up Day as well as the many individual rubbish pick-ups that occur throughout the year have added up to a clean and tidy town – a proud achievement for the Bremer Bay community.

Look forward to seeing you all next year.

Leonie McMahon

Bremer Projects Division



Caring for Country, people and culture with Noongar fire in the Fitz-Stirlings

By Ursula Rodrigues and Annie Leitch

Fire is integral to Noongar culture. For many Noongar Elders, kaal (fire) is central to their lives, and memories. Kaal is also important for Country and plays an important role in fulfilling the obligations of Noongar people to care for their Country.

A collaborative project, parts of which are currently underway in the **Fitzgerald Biosphere**, is exploring how we can work together across cultures to restore *culturally informed* fire to landscapes. It aligns well with **UNESCO's Man and Biosphere programme**, under which Biosphere Reserves have been established to showcase representative species and provide a landscape- or bioregional-scale to link ecological and cultural values.

The project, coordinated by PhD candidate, Ursula Rodrigues, is a collaboration between Menang and Goreng families, Nowanup Enterprises, Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation, Bush Heritage Australia, Gondwana Link and the University of Western Australia's *Walking Together* Project, with support from South Coast NRM, the DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence and state and local government agencies.

This year, five Elder-led burns have been conducted, including burns aimed to restore fire to Country, build two-way capacity amongst collaborators, rejuvenate cleared areas and 'tidy-up' areas of Eucalypt woodland. In addition, eight Noongar rangers have attended formal fire training this season, increasing their skills to apply prescribed fire and respond to bushfires.

Central to the project is monitoring conducted by UWA Albany researchers alongside Noongar Elders and rangers. Under Elder direction, plant responses to fire are being monitored, with a special focus on Noongar food plants, such as *Acacia* species that provide habitat for bardi grubs. Social and cultural outcomes of the project are also being documented, to record how different organisations can work together to put the right fire on Country.

The **Southwest Global Biodiversity Hotspot** is closely aligned with the traditional Country of Noongar people, who have stewarded this landscape for at least 50,000 years. Today, the biodiversity and cultural heritage of the region is subject to

significant threats. This project explores how we can confront some of these threats through cross-cultural collaboration. As Merninger Elder Lynette Knapp says: "Fire is good if you know how to use it... the right fire can heal".

This project and other topics of interest will be discussed at the upcoming events '*Living and Learning the Biosphere*' in Hopetoun on the 17th August and Bremer Bay on the 18th August

For details and tickets, book here for Hopetoun: <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/event/living-and-learning-the-biosphere-east-biosphere/hopetoun/>

Book here for Bremer Bay: <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/event/living-and-learning-the-biosphere-west-biosphere/bremer-bay/>

This project acknowledges the funding contribution of the Commonwealth Government and support from the WA State Emergency Management Committee, Lotterywest, the Western Australian Government's State Natural Resource Management Program, Bush Heritage Australia and Koorabup Trust.



A burn led by Goreng Elders Eugene Eades, Aden Eades and Eliza Woods to rejuvenate a cleared area at Nowanup (photo: U. Rodrigues).

(Continues Page: 10)



Caring for Country, people and culture with Noongar fire in the Fitz-Stirlings cont.

By Ursula Rodrigues and Annie Leitch

Biosphere Reserves: Biosphere Reserves are ‘learning places for sustainable development’ - sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems and management of biodiversity.

Global Biodiversity Hotspot: A region in which globally significant biodiversity is subject to significant threatening processes, making it a priority for research and conservation action.

Priority Place: A landscape in which place-based conservation action can support the protection and recovery of multiple

species, including threatened species, as defined by the Australian Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032. The Fitz-Stirlings is a Priority Place.

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization <https://www.unesco.org/en>



Noongar rangers and Bush Heritage staff completed fire training supported by Bush Heritage Australia (photos: S. Comer)



Fire is used to ‘clean up’ York Gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*) woodland at a Bush Heritage property in the Fitz-Stirlings. (photo: U. Rodrigues)

Rabobank: Should local wheat prices be trading at a premium this year?

Moving into April this year, conditions were starting to look drier for many Australian crop farmers. Rabobank senior grains and oilseeds analyst Dennis Voznesenski said moisture which had accumulated from plentiful summer rains was starting to evaporate across parts of both the east and west coast, and weather forecasters were predicting drier conditions as far out as August induced by a likely El Nino.

“Northern New South Wales and southern Queensland saw considerable challenges with dry conditions right from the beginning of the year,” Mr Voznesenski said. “In north-western NSW, it became so dry farmers began cutting back planned planting, and around the town of Come By Chance, some farmers chose not to plant at all, surmising that it was not worthwhile risking the high input costs.”

Mr Voznesenski said up in the northern Western Australian cropping belt, rainfall has been very patchy since March. “While coastal areas in the Geraldton zone received average rainfall, further inland rainfall has been very poor, with some farmers cutting back planting by up to 20 per cent compared with expectations, and with the window for yield improvement closing very soon,” he said.

“With attention being primarily focused on the dry cropping areas in Australia – and with farmers restraining on selling as a consequence – this has led to local APW1 pricing trading at a premium to global levels.”

The Rabobank analyst said while it makes sense for prices in northern NSW and Queensland to trade at a premium in order to factor in the cost of drawing in grain from further south, there is – for now at least – less justification for local prices from central NSW downward to trade at any notable premium to global levels. “Crops in southern NSW, Victoria and South Australia are overall looking favourable – with too much rainfall becoming more of a problem than not enough in some areas,” he said.

“If we have another favourable year of Australian production, wheat prices should, in theory, trade at, or below, global levels,” Mr Voznesenski said. “The question becomes ‘when will that happen’. The answer will come from the farmer. For now, farmers are not selling ... and prices are being kept higher.”

Mr Voznesenski said at the other end of supply chains, international business for Australian grain appears to be drying up, with other cheaper origins becoming more appealing. “International demand will not yield to Australia’s high prices – with northern hemisphere harvest ramping up and exports continuing to flow from other countries, there are options other than Australia.

“So, if rains keep coming, when will farmers decide to sell? For now, the financial position of farmers remains very favourable following two to three good seasons – so likely not

yet,” he said.

“If we do have a good season in Australia, local wheat prices will once again mainly be influenced by global factors. If we put aside the enigma that has become the Black Sea grain deal, the price outlook globally will depend on seasonal conditions in three regions: Canada, Argentina and Australia. If all three end the year in a dry condition, the global price outlook becomes bullish for wheat – and vice versa,” Mr Voznesenski said. “While, in addition, the impact of US weather conditions on the country’s corn production will also have a say in influencing overall grain price levels.”

To find out more about other Rabobank research, contact Rabobank’s local team in Albany on (08) 9844 5600 or subscribe to **RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness Australia & New Zealand** on your podcast app.



*Senior Grains & Oilseeds Analyst RaboResearch –
Dennis Voznesenski*

Ospreys of Bremer

We put one of Bremer's most cherished bird species, the Osprey, in the limelight recently at our Ospreys & Canapes evening on 4th August.

Ospreys hold a special place in the Bremer community. Many people know where their favourite roosting sites and fish-eating perches are and have witnessed first-hand their hunting prowess. And the pair breeding atop the Telstra tower near the general store are like the town's unofficial mascots.

Marcus Singor of BirdLife Australia has studied Western Australia's Ospreys and White-bellied Sea Eagles extensively and he very kindly put together the evening's presentation. He used a collection of fantastic photographs from a range of photographers, including Bremer local, Alice Reddington, whose photo of the Osprey nest on the Telstra tower was used.

We were fortunate to have Jon Pridham, birder and recently retired Wildlife Officer for DBCA, deliver the presentation and add his own knowledge acquired over decades in the field. Our own talented local birders, Anne Gadsby and Steve Elson, joined Jon and Hopetoun birder, John Tucker, for a lively Q&A session following the presentation.

Most easterly regular breeding pair

We learned that the active Osprey nest on top of the Telstra tower is the most easterly known nesting site along the south coast in regular use. There is a nest at Quoin Head on the eastern side of the Fitzgerald River National Park, but it may not be regularly used.

The nest on the Telstra tower was first established in 2014 but the Osprey pair didn't successfully fledge a chick that first year. They raised single chicks in 2015 and 2016 and while they have raised young each year since, Marcus doesn't have data on how many have fledged in each of those years.

If anyone in the community does have data from those years,

and this year, we'd be keen to pass it on to Marcus (marcussingor@gmail.com).

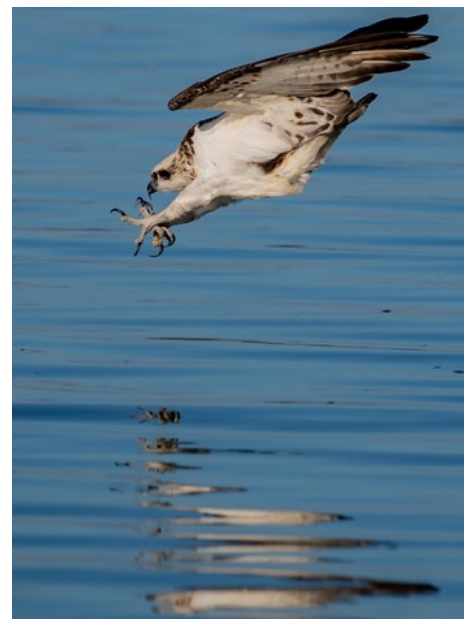
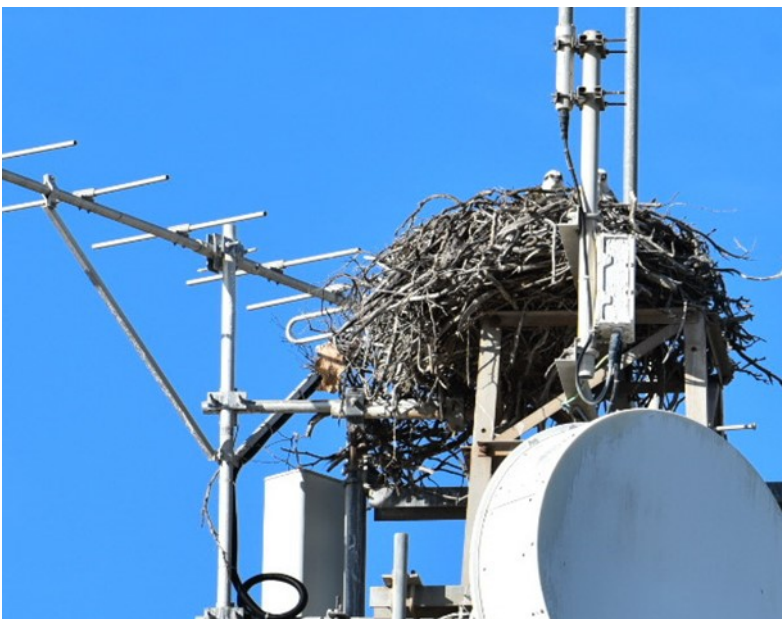
While we assume the Bremer nest is used by the same breeding pair each year, juvenile Ospreys do disperse over long distances. Marcus is aware of a juvenile banded at Garden Island that was recovered in Bremer Bay (423 km away 'as the crow flies' but given that Ospreys are coastal birds, this bird's journey was undoubtedly much longer).

Ospreys are found around the world and whilst Australian Ospreys don't migrate, northern European Ospreys do, travelling large distances between continents. In Western Australia there are high concentrations of Osprey around the Abrolhos and Barrow Island and their nests are very close together there. Here on the south coast, the distance between nests is further apart. Breeding territory size depends greatly on the availability of food.

Ospreys, also known as fish hawks, feed almost entirely on fish and are superb hunters; successfully catching their prey 60% of the time. Next time you see an Osprey emerge from the estuary with a fish, notice how it holds it – always head facing forward to streamline it in flight, we learned.

Whilst the osprey is a raptor, not a shorebird, the local population is very reliant on the Wellstead Estuary so the estuary's overall health is as important to them as it is to the myriad shorebirds, waders and bush birds that also rely upon it: their fates are intertwined.

Biosphere Community Collective's Communications and Extension Project and the Bremer Bay CRC. Thank you very much to Annie Leitch and Troy Treeby for all your hard work. Our projects are supported by State NRM, Lotterywest and the Shire of Jerramungup. The evening was sponsored by Pelican Op Shop, Southern Ports and Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park. Door prizes were donated by Bremer Bay Resort and Bremer Bay CRC. **(Continues page 13)**



Left: Ospreys nesting on the Telstra tower: Photograph courtesy Alice Reddington

Right: Diving Osprey: Photograph courtesy John Clarke

Ospreys of Bremer

Thank you to Anne and Steve

We couldn't let the opportunity pass without thanking Anne Gadsby and Steve Elson for their volunteer contributions to our Shorebirds Project. Both Anne and Steve have given unstintingly of their considerable knowledge and time throughout the project, and to avian and environmental conservation more generally over many decades. We're very lucky to have such a high level of expertise in our community. Thank you, Anne and Steve.

Our Osprey evening was jointly presented by the FBG's Shorebirds project, the Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective's Communications and Extension Project and the Bremer Bay CRC. Thank you very much to Annie Leitch and Troy Treeby for all your hard work. Our projects are supported by State NRM, Lotterywest and the Shire of Jerramungup. The evening was sponsored by Pelican Op Shop, Southern Ports and Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park. Door prizes were donated by Bremer Bay Resort and Bremer Bay CRC.

Leonie McMahon

Bremer Projects Division, FBG



Top Right: Anne Gadsby, CEO of Shire of Jerramungup, Martin Cuthbert, Steve Elson and Joanne Iffla, President of Shire of Jerramungup, following presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Anne and Steve. Photograph courtesy Annie Leitch.



Bottom Right: Community members at the Osprey evening: Photograph courtesy Annie Leitch.

This event is proudly presented by



This event is generously supported by



This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.



natural resource management program






FITZGERALD BIOSPHERE GROUP PRESENTS DANCING IN THE DIRT GALA BALL

23rd March, 2024

Needilup Oval

www.fbg.org.au

 @dancinginthedirt

e: dancinginthedirt@fbg.org.au



TICKETS ON SALE SOON!!

LIVING & LEARNING THE BIOSPHERE

West Biosphere

PRESENTATION AND EXCURSION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH 10AM - 2PM
Bremer Bay CRC followed by meander out bush

Regional presenters sharing some local research undertaken within the UNESCO Fitzgerald Biosphere in the fields of Ecology, Biology and Aboriginal Science Knowledge systems.

FBC Chairperson & Landscape ecologist
Nathan McQuoid

UWA Walking Together Project Team:
Merningar Elder & Adjunct Research Fellow
Auntie Lynnette Knapp
Professor Steve Hopper, Dr Alison Lullfitz,
PhD Students Ursula Rodrigues and
Susannah Cramp

FREE EVENT. All ages welcome. Lunch Provided

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/living-and-learning-the-biosphere>
OR contact Annie Leitch
Coordinator@fitzgeraldbiosphere.org

LIVING & LEARNING THE BIOSPHERE

East Biosphere

PRESENTATION AND EXCURSION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17TH 10AM - 2PM
Hopetoun CRC & Fitzgerald River National Park

FREE BUS DEPARTING RAVENSTHORPE CRC 9.30AM

Regional presenters sharing some local research undertaken within the UNESCO Fitzgerald Biosphere in the fields of Ecology, Biology and Aboriginal Science Knowledge systems.

FBC Chairperson & Landscape ecologist
Nathan McQuoid

UWA Walking Together Project Team:
Merningar Elder & Adjunct Research Fellow
Auntie Lynnette Knapp
Professor Steve Hopper, Dr Alison Lullfitz,
PhD Students Ursula Rodrigues and
Susannah Cramp

FREE EVENT. All ages welcome. Lunch Provided

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/living-and-learning-the-biosphere>
OR contact Annie Leitch
Coordinator@fitzgeraldbiosphere.org

national science week 2023



Save the date: 11th Oct 23

FBG 2023 AGM

Weekend in the Fitzgerald Biosphere

FREE Event for Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park Members
19th & 20th August | Nowanup, Monjebup North, Red Moort Reserves | Boxwood Hill

<p>Bush Heritage Australia</p> <p>Moort Field Station be Reserved for the ends of FRNP from Friday 18th August</p> <p>as available (limited) camping available</p>	<p>NOWANUP</p> <p>Saturday 19th August Nowanup Reserve</p> <p>10am</p> <p>Cultural walk with Uncle Eugene Eades</p> <p>WELCOME TO NOWANUP BOODJA Followed by catered Lunch</p>	<p>Bush Heritage Australia</p> <p>Saturday 19th August Monjebup North Reserve</p> <p>2pm</p> <p>Reserve walk with Ecologist Sarah Comer</p> <p>Catered BBQ Dinner</p> <p>Sunday 20th August Red Moort Reserve</p> <p>9am</p> <p>Bush walk</p>
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Bookings essential
For more details and tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/friends-of-the-fitzgerald-river-national-park-weekend-in-the-fitzgerald-biosphere>
Contact Annie Leitch Coordinator@fitzgeraldbiosphere.org

Ladies Day

Learn. Connect. Indulge.

Aug 23rd 2023, 10am - 5pm, Gairdner Hall

Kylie Douglas - Successiv
Pitching your business to the banks

Annie Leitch - Fitzgerald Biosphere
Community Collective
Living and working in the Fitzgerald Biosphere
- what is it and what does it mean?

Mae Connolly - Farmanco
Making peace with your grain marketing
decisions

Blythe Calnan - Runnymede Farm & The
Livestock Collective

&
Karryn Duncan - Urara Farming
Advocacy for ag

Laura Wishart - Shepherd's Hut Wines
Insights and expertise from the woman behind
the wine

Rachel North - Northsflowers
The business of flowers & getting the knack
for natives

Kyran Brooks - Nutrien Ag
Agronomy 101; what am I looking at and what
does it mean? (Field activity)

Nathan McQuoid - Landscape Ecologist
Species selection and collection for saltland
revegetation (Field activity)

Wayne Pech - North Stirling Downs
A practical perspective on farmer-led carbon
projects

CBH
WA grain logistics within the larger industry
landscape

Rabobank
Topic TBC

Specialist wine tastings by Laura Wishart.

Thank you to the generous sponsorship of Craig & Naomi Hall, CBH, and CSBP for helping to make this event possible, and the ongoing sponsorship of Rabobank. This event is also supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM program.



natural resource
management program



FBG
FITZGERALD
BIOSPHERE GROUP



Rabobank

South-West WA Drought Hub Study Tour

September 17-22, 2023

Join other WA growers from Sunday, September 17, to Friday, September 22, for a five-day tour looking at innovation in South Australian broadacre agriculture as part of an exchange experience for growers and researchers with the SA Hub.



Kellie-Jane Pritchard,
Hub Project Manager

The tour is suitable for growers interested in viewing new approaches to soil and water productivity and different ways of unlocking plant potential and examples of efficient input use.

Lodge an EOI to attend via the QR code below.

Study Tour Highlights

- Hart Field Day (Sept 19)
- Visiting trials focused on nitrogen, time of sowing for canola, drought and salinity germplasm, frost, soil modification and mixed species pastures
- Visit the Plant Accelerator® at the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus
- Grower dinners.




Lodge your
Study Tour EOI here


NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK
ELEMENT: EARTH

BUSH MINDFULNESS

Friday 11th
August
10am - 2pm
Hopetoun
Community
Resource Centre



Hopetoun
Community
Resource
Centre
Your local connection



Join us for an on-country excursion in the Fitzgerald Biosphere to learn about the importance and cultural significance of the earth's connection to human energy with Noongar Bush Mindfulness Facilitator, Belinda Swift.

BOOK NOW - hopetounwa.com/events/NSW-Earth

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thurs August 17th
Living and Learning the Biosphere—Hopetoun CRC
- Fri August 18th
Living and Learning the Biosphere—Bremer Bay CRC
- Wed August 23rd
Ladies Day—Gairdner Hall
- Tues September 12th
Spring Field Day—Gairdner
- Sat 24th March 2023
Dancing in the Dirt

Save the Date

FBG Spring Field Day

Tuesday September 12
2023



Jerramungup district rainfall

Location	22 Total	Total YTD 23	May	Jun	Jul
Jerramungup	430	212.6	8.6	120.2	24.8
Bremer Rd	710	354.5	18.5	210.0	20.5
Gairdner	607	162.6	3.5	95.8	12.3
Boxwood (Chillinup)	506	180.3	10.6	92.5	26.1
Mettler	755	326.9	19.9	153.2	34.4

Contact FBG for more details ph. 0499 346 233

Email: admin@fbg.org.au

Visit our website to view this issue of the Sustain- a- Bulletin (Scan this QR code to take you directly to the online version) or visit www.fbg.org.au

